

Remarks

This application is an RCE filed in response to an Office Action mailed April 5, 2004, in which all of the claims were finally rejected. Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is believed to be proper and is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims have been amended to more distinctly point out certain features of Applicants' invention. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-15 remain pending.

Summary of Interview

Attorney of Record, Meredith E. Palmer and the Examiner for this application, Ms. Wyrozebski-Lee, engaged in a telephonic interview on August 6, 2004.

The Interview focused on the final rejection of claims 1-15, Applicants' remarks thereto as submitted in the response dated June 7, 2004, as well as the comments contained in the Advisory Action dated July 6, 2004. During the Interview it was suggested that one means of overcoming the pending 102(b) rejection might be by demonstrating that Applicants' invention encompassed other types of carbon blacks in addition to furnace carbon blacks. If the Office requires further elaboration of this Summary, please advise.

Rejection Under §102(b)

The USPTO has rejected the present application under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by LAUBE (US 5,426,147) in view of evidence in KITAHARA (US 4,525,541). Claims 1-15 have been amended to include a second carbon black having a DBP absorption of from about 70 to about 140. Support for this amendment can be found on page 4, paragraph 1. In that neither LAUBE or KITAHARA discloses or suggests a tire component or composition including Applicants' first and second carbon

blacks, Applicants believe that the claims as amended are not anticipated and are unobvious over the prior art.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims as amended. Applicants' attorney can be reached at (330) 379-6543 if the Examiner wishes to discuss Applicants' response and amendment.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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Date

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